

objection, that the Bill gives larger powers, can be decided by the Chair. These questions are decided by the House itself or by the Committees to which the Bills are referred. The third point is a question of order, but the fact is that the Bill is founded on a Statute of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, and I cannot consider that the rule applies to such. We all know that every Session Bills are passed by the House conferring powers granted by the Local Legislatures, and it has never been considered obligatory that the copy of any Provincial Statute should be annexed to any such Bill. I, therefore, rule that the points raised by the hon. member for Portneuf are not well taken.

Bill read the second time.

DOMINION CRÉDIT FONCIER.

Mr. IVES moved the second reading of Bill (No. 32) to incorporate the Credit Foncier of Canada.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I do not rise to oppose the Bill on its second reading, but the same objection has to be made to this Bill as was made to the other, so far as civil rights are affected by it. Of course, that is to be decided by the Committee. I only wish to draw the hon. gentleman's attention to that objection.

Mr. IVES. I have already very carefully looked into the objection, and shall have a good deal to say with reference to it when the Bill comes up in Committee. I am a little surprised that my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier should willingly give up all that there is in his Bill of any use. It looks as if it pointed more to my Bill than to his own. I have not the slightest doubt this Parliament has the power to incorporate a company, either to lend money on real estate, or buy and sell real estate.

Mr. MILLS. If the hon. gentleman is disposed to discuss that question, it ought to be discussed here rather than in Committee. It ought to be fairly considered at every stage of the Bill. I do not see that we have the power about which the hon. gentleman has no doubt. This House has larger power than the Local Legislatures, and I do not think hon. members should regard with indifference an assumption of power that belongs to bodies less capable of taking care of their own interests than this House. The tendency for many years has been to legislate on every subject introduced here with reference to the question of jurisdiction. The only question hon. gentlemen seem to think this House has to consider is whether the measure is good or not. There may be many excellent measures not within the cognizance of this Parliament. In my opinion the hon. gentleman has in this measure undertaken to deal with the subject in a manner that seriously trenches on powers appertaining to another body.

Mr. IVES. I quite think it would have been better to discuss in the House the question which will be raised in the Committee. I take this ground, because it seems to be understood that the Bill which preceded this and which asks for similar powers, should be referred to the Committee. Of course, whatever decision this Committee will report, the question of jurisdiction can still be raised in this House.

Mr. GIROUARD. The question raised by the presentation of this Bill of my hon. friend is a serious one, though I do not object the Bill should be referred to a Committee and its constitutionality examined. It is a copy, word for word, of the Bill incorporating the Crédit Foncier Franco-Canadien in the Quebec Legislature. Before that society was incorporated, the promoters insisted that the Dominion Government should declare whether the Bill was within the powers of the Quebec Legislature. The Government declared that it was. If so, it seems to me this Parliament

has no right to give the very same powers. That question can be examined into before the Private Bill Committee.

Mr. VALLÉE. I think that if this Parliament has not the right to pass this Bill, we have not the power to extend the privileges given to a company incorporated by the Provincial Legislature for the same purpose. If we have not the power to incorporate, we have still less the power to extend.

Bill read the second time.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

Bill (No. 53) to amend the Acts incorporating the Montreal, Portland and Boston Railway Company.—(Mr. Brooks.)

Bill (No. 54) to amend the Act of incorporation of The Accident Insurance Company of Canada, and to authorize the change of the name of the said Company to "The Accident Insurance Company of America."—(Mr. Gault.)

NEW BRUNSWICK RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John), in the absence of Mr. Weldon, in moving the second reading of Bill (No. 55) to amend the Acts relating to the New Brunswick Railway Company, said: The object of the Bill is to extend the line from Edmonton to the St. Lawrence to the Intercolonial, and to give power to the Company to erect a bridge across the St. John at Woodstock.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I think the hon. gentleman should give us some more information as to the intentions of the Company. It was chartered by the New Brunswick Legislature, in the first instance, to build a broad gauge railway, to bridge the St. John, and carry the Quebec end to Rivière du Loup, and it got a very large grant of public lands, nearly 2,000,000 acres, to assist it. When the railroad finally got into operation it was made a narrow gauge road, and was then turned over to another company, whose members do not belong to the Province at all. So those New Brunswick lands, with vast timber limits, are now in the hands of strangers, and who can charge the people what they please in the shape of stumpage and other dues. I do not mean to say they will be induced to be unjust by charging excessive tolls, but they have the power. For years those lands were locked up, stumpage was increased, making it a great injustice to New Brunswick that its lands should have been thus disposed of. Before giving the Company any additional privilege we should have some guarantee of their *bond fides* and intentions. They have got up a joint stock company in England to get rid of the lands or colonize them. I think, therefore, the member for St. John, who is largely interested in the lands himself, and who, perhaps, intends well, should inform the House of the projects of the Company. I do not wish to throw any difficulty in the way of railroads, because the more we have of them the better, and I am pleased to think my friend from St. John and his colleagues are so enterprising as to extend this one, but before granting them the charter we should be informed whether they intend to make the road a broad gauge, or extend it to Rivière du Loup or Rivière Ouelle, for the benefit of the people of New Brunswick, whose rights are so largely concerned.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John). So far as the Company are concerned, the main portion of the railroad is owned in Canada still. But the Company intend next spring to widen the gauge of the road in the western section, and this Bill is to enable them to extend it to the St. Lawrence, I think to Rivière du Loup. We also ask authority to erect a bridge across